

MEDIA RELEASE

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DanceHouse presents

Morphed by Tero Saarinen Company (Finland)

October 27 & 28, 2017, 8pm

Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street

VANCOUVER, BC / 19 September 2017 — In the spirit of Finland's centennial, DanceHouse is pleased to kick off its 10th anniversary season with the Vancouver debut of celebrated Finnish troupe **Tero Saarinen Company**.

Led by dancer-choreographer **Tero Saarinen**, the company will perform **Morphed**, an evening length work for seven male dancers. Hailed as a masterpiece of opposing forces and frictions, Saarinen's choreography tackles themes of change and sensuality in a fresh exploration of masculinity.

Recognized for his multidimensional artistry, Saarinen does not disappoint with *Morphed*, which brings together powerful movement, stunning visual landscapes and a bold score. Mikki Kunttu's sets highlight a world constantly on tilt, as the dancers tangle and navigate through a forest of dancing ropes surrounding the stage. The work is performed to three pieces by acclaimed orchestra conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen—*Concert étude for solo horn* (2000), *Foreign Bodies* (2001), and *Violin Concerto* (2009)—each notable for its kinetic quality and innate musical duality. Saarinen's choreography further expands on these existing musical themes, submerging the audience in a striking world of sensitivity, heroism and all that lies between.

"In *Morphed*, [Saarinen] casts seven male dancers of varying styles and ages and they are most definitely blokes, not boys, who move with rough-hewn heft, as well as moments of refinement and richness." – *Evening Standard*

About Tero Saarinen Company:

Founded in 1996, Tero Saarinen Company has since captivated audiences in over 40 countries and is celebrated as one of Finland's leading dance troupes. Choreographer Tero Saarinen is known for his unique movement style, bringing together influences ranging from Butoh and martial arts to classical ballet and Western contemporary dance. The company is in permanent residence at Helsinki's Alexander Theatre.

Tickets from \$35 available at www.dancehouse.ca or 604.801.6225.

Extra Events:

Speaking of Dance Conversations – Join in a community roundtable conversation comparing Finnish and Canadian cultural politics, led by moderator Janet Smith (Arts Editor, *Georgia Straight*) and guest speakers. October 24, 2017; 7pm | SFU Gold Corp Centre for the Arts | FREE

Speaking of Dance Pre-show Chats – Gain insight into the presentation you are about to experience. October 27 & 28, 2017; 7:15pm | Upper Lobby, Vancouver Playhouse

Post-show Social – Join the DanceHouse community following Friday night's performance for an intimate gathering with the company. October 27, 2017; following the performance | Vancouver Playhouse Salons

Masterclasses – Learn directly from international artists. Classes for community members, pre-professional and professional dancers as space permits. Visit www.dancehouse.ca for dates and details.

For Calendar Listing

Who: DanceHouse presents Tero Saarinen Company (Finland)

What: *Morphed* by Tero Saarinen Company (Finland)

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Where: Playhouse Theatre, 600 Hamilton St

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